

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-19 are cancelled.

Claim 21 is new.

Support for each new and amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The enablement and new matter rejections of Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are believed to be obviated by the amendment of Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claims 1-15 and 19-20 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 describes a multilayer film that comprises an upper layer, a middle layer, and a backing layer. The upper layer is the uppermost layer of the multilayer film. The film is produced by a process selected from the group consisting of lacquering, lamination and coextrusion, and each of these processes would produce distinct layers. Further, the composition of each layer is specifically defined. The upper layer consists of a first light stabilizer and a first (meth)acrylate copolymer and has a proviso for selected optional ingredients. As the Office is aware, the optional ingredients only become part of the claim through explicit incorporation via a dependent claim. The middle layer consists of a dye and a second (meth)acrylate copolymer and has a proviso for selected optional ingredients. As the Office is aware, the optional ingredients only become part of the claim through explicit incorporation via a dependent claim. The backing layer consists of polycarbonate and at least one ingredient defined within a closed Markush group. Accordingly, the layers are compositionally distinguished. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The anticipation and obviousness rejections of Claims 1-17 and 19-20 as being unpatentable in view of US 20020054991 ('991) is respectfully traversed because '991 does

not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claim 1 and because '991 "teaches away from" a feature of present Claim 1.

As described in the Official Action at page 7, the resin film of '991 has, on its surface, an imine polymer.

Present Claim 1 describes a multilayer film that comprises an upper layer, a middle layer, and a backing layer. The upper layer is the uppermost layer of the Claim 1 multilayer film. The upper layer consists of a first light stabilizer and a first (meth)acrylate copolymer and has a proviso for selected optional ingredients. As the Office is aware, the optional ingredients only become part of the claim through explicit incorporation via a dependent claim.

As defined in present Claim 1, the (meth)acrylate copolymer consists of :

- a) from 95 to 5% by weight of methyl methacrylate units and, optionally from 0 to 40% by weight of other vinylic monomer units and
- b) from 5 to 95% by weight of esters of (meth)acrylic acid, wherein the radicals in the ester groups are selected from the group consisting of:

a cycloalkyl radical having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms, a multiple-alkyl-substituted cycloalkyl radical having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms, and combinations thereof, wherein the above described radicals may have bonding to the (meth)acrylic acid carboxyl radicals by way of alkylene groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which may also have branching, or oxyalkylene groups having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

Thus, the upper layer of the multilayer film of Claim 1 is the uppermost layer of the multilayer film. Further, the upperlayer consists of a (meth)acrylate copolymer and a first light stabilizer. The (meth)acrylic copolymer of present Claim 1, as described above, is not a

hydroxy-modified imine polymer as required by '991. Accordingly, '991 cannot anticipate present Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

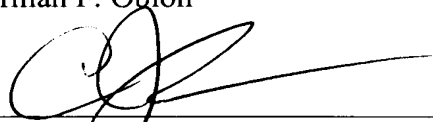
Further, because '991 requires a hydroxyl-modified imine polymer on the surface of the resin film of '991, and present Claim 1 cannot have a hydroxyl-modified imine polymer on the surface of the multilayer film of Claim 1, '991 "teaches away from" a feature of present Claim 1. Accordingly, '991 cannot render obvious present Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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